

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An attachment apparatus for attaching a first structure to a second structure of a household appliance, the attachment apparatus comprising:

a holding pin, the holding pin having a head portion and a foot portion and the holding pin being disposable, during an installation operation, into a fully fitted position in which the holding pin extends through an aperture in the first structure and through an aperture in the second structure along an attachment axis passing through the apertures of the first structure and the second structure, the head portion of the holding pin, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, being located on one axial side of the first structure and the foot portion, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, extending into the aperture of the second structure, the holding pin engaging the first structure and the second structure to maintain the first structure at an axial spacing from the second structure in the region of the apertures of the first and second structures, the foot portion of the holding pin having a nominal transverse extent that is transverse to the axial extent of the holding pin and at least as large as the largest transverse extent of the aperture of the second structure, the foot portion of the holding pin having, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, a smaller transverse extent than its nominal transverse extent and the foot portion of the holding pin exerting a radially outward force against the aperture of the second structure to thereby resist dislodgement of the holding pin from the aperture of the second structure in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, the head portion of the holding pin having a transverse extent transverse to the axial extent of the holding pin that is larger than a transverse extent of the aperture of the first structure, the holding pin further including a first seating extent that is at a location

axially intermediate the head portion of the holding pin and the foot portion of the holding pin and that has a transverse extent less than the transverse extent of the foot portion of the holding pin, the first seating extent extending axially from the head portion of the holding pin to the foot portion of the holding pin in an axial extent that is at least equal to an axial thickness of the first structure as measured at the aperture of the first structure and, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, the first seating extent is axially coincident with the first structure at the first aperture and the head portion of the holding pin and the foot portion of the holding pin are disposed on opposite axial sides of the first structure with the head portion of the holding pin and the foot portion of the holding pin each resisting a respective axial movement of the first structure therewith, wherein the holding pin limits axial movement of the second structure relative to the first structure in the fully fitted position of the holding pin.

9. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the second structure is a body with a cabinet shape, the first structure is a work surface panel to be attached to the body in a defined position transversely with respect to the attachment direction, the work surface panel has a rear surround integrally formed thereon, the aperture in the first structure is an elongated hole, and the holding pin is operable to hold the rear surround at a defined height position relative to the body of the household appliance.

10. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the foot portion of the holding pin includes a slot formed in the holding pin.

11. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the holding pin is formed with a head-type attachment adjoining the slot.

12. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the holding pin is formed with an axial bore for receiving an attachment element passing therethrough.

13. (Currently Amended) The attachment apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the foot portion of the holding pin has a constant nominal transverse extent.

14. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the holding pin is configured to be secured to the second structure by outward radial spreading of the foot portion.

15. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the head-type attachment has two ear-shaped lateral projections, with an internal separation at least as large as a diameter of a part of an attachment element located therein an attachment position thereof, and the slot formed in the holding pin extends as far as the lateral projections.

16. (Previously Presented) An attachment apparatus for attaching a first structure of a household appliance to a second structure of the household appliance, the attachment apparatus comprising:

a holding pin, the holding pin having a head portion and a foot portion and the holding pin being disposable through an aperture in the first structure and an aperture in the second structure along an attachment axis that extends through the apertures of the first structure and the second structure such that the holding pin, in a fully fitted position thereof, extends through the aperture of the first structure with the head portion of the holding pin located on one axial side of the first structure and the foot portion extending through the aperture of the second structure, the holding pin operating to maintain the first structure at an axial spacing from the second structure in the region of the apertures of the first and second structures, a slot extending into the foot portion of the holding pin, and the holding pin includes a shoulder that is axially spaced from the head portion of the holding pin by at least an axial thickness of the first structure as measured at the aperture of the first structure, and, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, the head portion of the holding pin and the shoulder of the holding pin are disposed on

opposite axial sides of the first structure with each limiting an axial movement of the first structure therewith in a respective axial direction and the foot portion of the holding pin frictionally engaging the second structure along a portion thereof forming the aperture of the second structure so as to resist axial movement of the second structure relative to the first structure.

17. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the aperture in the first structure is an elongated hole and the first seating extent is compatibly configured with respect to the elongated hole of the aperture of the first structure such that rotation of the holding pin about its axis is resisted by resistance of the elongated hole of the aperture of the first structure to rotational movement of the first seating extent.

18. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the first seating extent delimits a generally parallelepiped shape with a pair of generally flat surfaces and the generally flat surfaces of the first seating extent are in engagement with elongate surfaces of the elongated hole of the aperture of the first structure.

19. (Previously Presented) An arrangement for a household appliance, the arrangement comprising:

a first structure having an aperture in the form of an elongated hole;
a second structure having an aperture; and
an attachment apparatus for attaching the first structure to the second structure, the attachment apparatus including:

a holding pin, the holding pin having a head portion and a foot portion and the holding pin being disposable, during an installation operation, into a fully fitted position in which the holding pin extends through the elongated aperture in the first structure and through the aperture in the second structure along an attachment axis passing through the apertures of the first structure and the second structure, the head portion of the

holding pin, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, being located on one axial side of the first structure and the foot portion, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, extending into the aperture of the second structure, the holding pin engaging the first structure and the second structure to maintain the first structure at an axial spacing from the second structure in the region of the apertures of the first and second structures, the foot portion of the holding pin having a nominal transverse extent that is transverse to the axial extent of the holding pin and at least as large as the largest transverse extent of the aperture of the second structure, the foot portion of the holding pin having, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, at a smaller transverse extent than its nominal transverse extent and the foot portion of the holding pin exerting a radially outward force against the aperture of the second structure to thereby resist dislodgement of the holding pin from the aperture of the second structure in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, the head portion of the holding pin having a transverse extent transverse to the axial extent of the holding pin that is larger than a transverse extent of the aperture of the first structure, the holding pin further including a first seating extent that is at a location axially intermediate the head portion of the holding pin and the foot portion of the holding pin and that has a transverse extent less than the transverse extent of the foot portion of the holding pin, the first seating extent extending axially from the head portion of the holding pin to the foot portion of the holding pin in an axial extent that is at least equal to an axial thickness of the first structure as measured at the aperture of the first structure and, in the fully fitted position of the holding pin, the first seating extent is axially coincident with the first structure at the first aperture and the head portion of the holding pin and the foot portion of the holding pin are disposed on opposite axial sides of the first structure with the head portion of the holding pin and the foot portion of the holding pin each resisting a respective axial movement of the first structure therewith, wherein the holding pin limits axial movement of the second structure relative to the first structure in the fully fitted position of the holding pin and the first seating extent is compatibly configured with respect to the elongated hole of the aperture of the first structure such that rotation of the holding pin about its axis is resisted by resistance of

the elongated hole of the aperture of the first structure to rotational movement of the first seating extent.

20. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first seating extent delimits a generally parallelepiped shape with a pair of generally flat surfaces and the generally flat surfaces of the first seating extent are in engagement with elongate surfaces of the elongated hole of the aperture of the first structure.

21. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the second structure is a body with a cabinet shape, the first structure is a work surface panel to be attached to the body in a defined position transversely with respect to the attachment direction, the work surface panel has a rear surround integrally formed thereon, and the holding pin is operable to hold the rear surround at a defined height position relative to the body of the household appliance.

22. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the foot portion of the holding pin includes a slot formed in the holding pin.

23. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the holding pin is formed with a head-type attachment adjoining the slot.

24. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the holding pin is formed with an axial bore for receiving an attachment element passing therethrough.

25. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the foot portion of the holding pin has a constant transverse extent.

26. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the holding pin is configured to be secured to the second structure by outward radial spreading of the foot portion.

27. (Previously Presented) The attachment apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the head-type attachment has two ear-shaped lateral projections, with an internal separation at least as large as a diameter of a part of an attachment element located therein an attachment position thereof, and the slot formed in the holding pin extends as far as the lateral projections.